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Saturday, December 14, 1912.

Put a Red Cross seal on all your Christmas gifts, and thus aid a great humanity!

The Dove of Peace is now on her nest in St. James'. May her hatch be abundant and all strong fledglings!

The Good Follows are in fine fettle, and are getting in their helpful work in excellent fashion. Go in with them and do your part.

A New York jury has awarded a minister \$300 for the loss of 312 sermons. Those jurymen must have for their favorite motto, "salvation is free."

The father of nineteen children has married the mother of twelve down in Texas. A monopolistic combine, but not violative of the anti-trust law.

A world-wide war on rats is proposed, the idea being that this will stop the spread of the plague. Anyway, the war is justified on economic principles.

Mayor Gaynor says that the New York police force, taken as a whole, has no equal in the world. And the world will fervently hope that he is right.

There is reason to believe that the majority of the people of South Carolina consider Governor Bleas an honor to the State, not a disgrace. Poor, misguided souls!

The warlike operations of Greece appear as though the Greeks consider themselves alone a match for the Turks. But it's better not to be too rash, unless there's a plot on and about ready to explode.

The twelfth day of the twelfth month of the twelfth year of the century passed without special celebration. In a little less than a century the round will begin again and run up to twelve, but no higher.

The Ogden Standard is in error when it supposes that we want "the whole show" to return to the Republican party. We want him to remain just where he is, stranded by the ebb of the political tide.

The town of Mendon, N. J., is levying an extra tax assessment on every piece of property which displays advertising billboards, and the tax has been pronounced valid. Other towns might profitably do the same.

The failure to get the Republican factions together thus early after the election should cause no surprise. The surprise rather is to be found in the earnest effort so early to get together, and this presages success later on.

President Taft will make his fifth visit to the Panama canal zone this month, starting on the 19th. But his just dream of being able to officiate at its formal opening will not be realized, unfortunately for him—and the canal.

It is said that ministers in New York are paid less than day laborers. There are some people in New York who say that if the ministers there desire the higher pay of day laborers there's nothing to hold them back from the work.

Colonel Roosevelt did not carry a single county in the State of New York in the recent election. In a few counties, prominent among which is Chautauque, he came in second, but in most cases was third. And there's where they know him best.

Turkey, having prosecuted a dishonorable war, will accept only an honorable peace. It is too much to ask. The lift of the boot applied where it should do the most good, would deposit the Turk across the Straits, and land him where he would be most at home.

The Portland Oregonian wickedly says: "Will the returns from Wilson's new book equal the \$2 a word Roosevelt received for his articles on the African hunt? If so, and if he should find time for other books, he will be able to dispense with a Carnegie pension for 'old and disabled professors.'"

San Francisco Chronicle: "Sir Edward Grey's protest against the exclusion from the Panama canal of British ships owned by Canadian railroads, or whose owners may be guilty of violating the Sherman anti-trust law, gives the impression that the British Minister of Foreign Affairs thinks the ca-

nal was built by this country principally for the British."

THE CAPITOL GRADES.

It is unfortunate that there should be at this late date, or indeed at any date for that matter, an annoying dispute as to grades on Capitol Hill which might delay the letting of contracts for the construction of the capitol. It had been supposed by the public that the work of the Olmsted Brothers in fixing lines and points on the hill with a view to the construction of the capitol, had settled that matter so far as the capitol building was concerned. If it does not settle it, then the work of the Olmsted Brothers was in vain, and the expense involved in their employment was a waste of money.

It appears that the contention just now is between the city engineer and Mr. Kletting. It is not easy to understand, however, what the city engineer has to do with it, nor indeed why there should be any dispute at all. If the Capitol Commission accepted the work of the Olmsted Brothers and proceeded with their approval of the capitol plans and put forth their advertisement for bids for work on the capitol on the basis of the Olmsted levels, it would seem that they should proceed on that line. If this was not the case, it is difficult to see on what basis they advertised at all, for no contract could be intelligently let until the grades are established. But with the Olmsted lines as the basis, then the Commission can proceed fairly and intelligently with the letting of contracts for excavation and construction. And doubtless it was on the Olmsted lines that the bidders figured.

The contention that the lines and grades must be changed is, of course, a contention that might reopen the whole matter, provided it is persisted in, and this reopening may involve dangerous delays in the letting of the contract. It has been understood by the public of Salt Lake that everything was ready for the letting of contracts for the actual construction work on the capitol. The opening of the grade question, however, would necessarily upset this understanding, if the Commission does not stop it.

If there is any possible way for the Capitol Commission to proceed without further delay it is certainly the wish of the Salt Lake public, as well as in the interest of the State, that this should be done; and it is a vast annoyance to find at this late date that the whole matter is unsettled by reason of the contention about grades if this goes to the undoing of the preliminary work laid out. It is, to be sure, of the utmost importance to have the capitol constructed on proper lines and levels. But as we say, the supposition has been that those proper lines and levels had been laid down and accepted long ago. To find this preliminary matter still in a state of argumentative contention is disappointing indeed. We trust that the commission may ignore the new contention altogether, and proceed without delay with the letting of the contract.

A BITTER TAUNT.

We find in the Detroit Free Press a bitter saying with regard to a mixture of politics with penitentiary management, as follows: "The millennium will not be here until a Governor goes out of office without paying his political debts by paroling murderers."

It will be remembered that there was a vicious outbreak in the Michigan State prison, to quell which the State militia had to be called out. There were recriminations between Governor Osborn and the prison management, and there was evidently much political feeling and much political intrusion in the management of the Michigan penitentiary. And now the Free Press appears openly with the charge that there is political manipulation with respect to the paroling of murderers. It is a dreadful position for a State to be in if this intimation of the Free Press is correct, and there certainly is a good deal of outward indication that the Free Press has in no way overstated the vicious situation, and has not intimated in vain that the paroling of murderers may be and is a political proposition in Michigan. But surely the statement of a matter of this kind ought to be the utter condemnation of any system under which that sort of viciousness can be charged.

NOVEMBER'S FIRE LOSSES.

The losses by fire in the month of November just past in this country and Canada were the least of any November for the past three years. They amounted to \$16,172,300, compared with \$18,680,000 for the same month in 1911, and to \$16,407,000 in November of 1910.

Although this year started with uncommonly large losses in January, backed up by like excessive losses in February, the diminished losses month by month since have brought the total of losses the present year considerably below those of either of the three years for the same period. In 1910 the fire losses for the first eleven months were \$212,942,600; in eleven months of 1911 they were \$211,614,400. For the same period in the present year these losses amount to \$207,353,900, indicating that in place of the present year showing excessive fire losses, as it was expected it would do from the enormous losses in the first two months, the losses will in fact be considerably less than in either of the other two years.

There were 273 fires during November this year, causing a property damage of \$10,000 or over in each case; there were fourteen fires where the loss amounted to \$200,000 or over. The most damaging was the burning of the bag factory and cordage works in Montreal, Quebec, with a loss of \$465,000. Two other losses amounted to \$400,000

each; the paper and board mill fire at Antioch, California, and the packing plant at Indianapolis, Indiana.

It will be an encouragement if the facts do turn out to be as now seem probable, that there will be shown a substantial reduction in fire losses this year as compared with the losses of the two previous years, and with that showing we shall be safe in forecasting an even lighter fire loss for the ensuing year.

UNION PACIFIC ADJUSTMENT.

The new alignment of the Union Pacific system suggested in a telegram from Omaha in yesterday morning's Tribune, is very likely to be the shape that the railroad interests involved will take. Under the ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court, the Southern Pacific system proper must be absolutely segregated from the Union Pacific. But the Union Pacific system includes already the line from Omaha to Ogden and the track to Portland, although the latter is called the Oregon Short Line, and includes the control of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company's line.

The combination suggested in the Omaha dispatch is that the Union Pacific proper will include also the old Central Pacific, making a through line from Omaha to San Francisco, together with the Oregon Short Line tracks to Butte, Portland, and the spurs in Idaho, and also the Salt Lake Route from this city to Los Angeles. But whether the proposed combination would be any closer than it is now, is not certain.

Whatever danger might be implied in combining together the three lines from this State to the Coast has no doubt been fully considered by the lawyers of the Union Pacific, and they must be well convinced that there will be no danger of any suit to dissolve that combination. But on the surface showing there would be more likelihood of the success of such a suit in the event of that combination than there was in the suit to dissolve the alleged combination between the Union Pacific so far as its track from Omaha to Ogden was concerned, in its connection through to San Francisco over the old Central Pacific lines. The court held explicitly that this latter was not a combination, but simply a transcontinental line provided for definitely by act of Congress, and was in no way competitive but rather correlative and complementary.

The adjustment suggested would put under one management all of the Harriman railroad interests in this intermountain country, and the advantage of having all operated in common is evident from a practical and business point of view, while as to the possible violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, doubtless the activities of the combined system would be so carefully guarded and controlled that no occasion for dispute or complaint would arise.

THE WAYS OF "THE STREET."

The Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives has made a great point of securing the so-called "secrets" of Wall street in the way of manipulating stocks, in building up or tearing down the market, and in general the antics and devices of the "bulls" and the "bears."

All of these antics, however, are fairly understood by the public. It is probably well enough for the House to get the absolute testimony on this matter and have the facts so brought out that they will be available for use in discussion and legislation as the discussion may arise or legislation be proposed. But as a matter of fact nothing new has been discovered. Every one understood perfectly beforehand that there was manipulation of the market, that there was trickery, that there was a "long" interest and a "short" interest in the market, and that alternately one or the other side got "squeezed" and had to forfeit greater or less sums to the winning manipulators.

The sensation of the whole matter is not anything new, but in making an official record of well-known facts. That record may or may not be valuable, precisely as Congress may or may not act on the facts and testimony brought out. It must be confessed that Congress has not had much success heretofore in legislation of this kind. But possibly the official accumulation of evidence may bring such light to the question that something better may be evolved in the future than has ever been thought of in the past. As a general rule, however, it is best to let this form of trade alone to pursue its own way unhampered. So long as it is free, everyone is left to his own devices without being protected by legislation which builds up on the one side and tears down on the other. The fluctuations of this sort of trade, if let alone, proceed in a way that can usually be foreseen to a fair extent. But with the clamping of legislation upon that business, and the freedom of this commercial intercourse cramped, it might be difficult indeed to get at the proper remedies for any given abuses. As it is now, the legislation we have, fortified by the common law, is usually sufficient to meet any case that is presented. And we doubt very much if any practical good will come of this so-called sensational exposure of the ways of Wall street, which is in fact no exposure at all.

Under the headline, "South Carolina's Shame," the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "In the name of South Carolina, Governor Cole Blaise advocates mob murder at the Conference of Governors in Richmond. And why not put it that way? South Carolina has chosen Mr. Blaise as its governor, knowing full well the character of the man. It is said that the people always get as good a brand of government as the majority of them deserve. If that

is not always strictly true, it is at least true that when a man whose caliber is well known is elected Governor that State gets the kind of Governor the majority want. A lack of general enlightenment may, of course, cause them to want him."

THE DETENTION HOME DISPUTE.

We see the same old dispute has arisen with regard to the alleged city portion of the cost of the detention home. It is an old contention, and one that ought to have been settled by legislation long ago. Under the present statute the county has the complete control of the detention home, and is supposed to be at liberty to tax against the city what it may claim to be the "city's share" of the expenses of running that home. But since the city has nothing to do with the administration of it, has no control or jurisdiction in any shape or form with respect to it, the rightful rule of obligation would free the city from any expenditure that it had not voluntarily incurred. If the city officially turns over to the county any inmates of the detention home it should do so under an express agreement as to what the cost will be, precisely as if the city should turn over patients to a hospital or to any other public utility that should care for them. There would in fact be just as much propriety in the county assessing against the city a special bill of costs for the support of city paupers or any city indigents in the infirmary or poor house, as to do the like for this detention home.

The city has always contested this right; but its contest has never been brought to a head. We suggest that now is a favorable time to settle this whole matter, and to get a court ruling on the past, and better legislation for the future. It is not becoming to the city or the county to be in a constant wrangle about a matter of this kind. The city has clear right and justice on its side, but the county has the face of the statute. That statute is probably unconstitutional in this point, but if so it should be pronounced unconstitutional by the courts. The city and county should not be in constant wrangle on a point of constitutionality with that point never brought to a decision. Let it be decided now, and then let the legislature either give the city its rightful proportion of control in the detention home, or let the basis of adjustment as between the city and county be on agreement made and service rendered, on contract between the two and not on the basis that the county may do as it will, and charge against the city as it chooses.

BRITAIN HAS NO CASE.

It will be a satisfaction to the American people to find that Secretary Knox is firmly persuaded that Great Britain has no cause of complaint against this country with regard to the canal tolls. Secretary Knox is a very astute lawyer, and can fairly be held to be a complete offset to Senator Root (who takes the British view) in weight of judgment. And with the understanding that he is fully persuaded that Great Britain has no case and that the United States may do as it will with its own canal, as indeed it would be altogether singular if it could not, the American public will be quite content.

It has been well stated that so far as any obligation of this country is concerned towards Great Britain with respect to that canal, this obligation was entirely set aside by the ratification of the second Hay-Pauncefote treaty. And since Great Britain has put nothing into the canal, but has waived her treaty rights to take part in the construction in place of actually taking part in it, leaving the whole cost and administration to the United States, it will be difficult indeed to see where the justice of Great Britain's contention comes in, that she is on the same basis as the United States with respect to the use of that canal. Secretary Knox can fairly and squarely meet the issue on the common law principle of proprietary right, which primarily is the same for a nation as for an individual, but so far as this particular matter is concerned, that right is immensely reinforced in favor of the United States by our acquisition of complete sovereignty and jurisdiction over the canal zone.

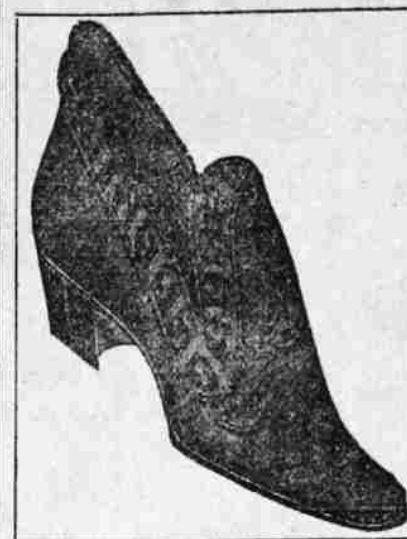
It is possible, as is suggested in the dispatch, that Secretary Stimson may be right in suggesting that it would be well to leave out from the Congressional enactment any discriminating matters of toll, leaving the whole subject to be fixed by administrative operation. The law vests in the President the duty and power of fixing the tolls. And the same result could be reached by the President's proclamation under the law as is sought to be reached in the enactment.

But the main thing is that the position of the United States is absolutely impregnable in this matter, and the British protest is simply a protest of special interests, and that can in no way reach in its standing the dignity of an international plea.

New York Tribune: "The suffragettes of Glasgow cry 'Cowards!' at the young men students who smash their windows; but at least the latter are not so cowardly as to claim immunity on the ground of sex. Is there any courage in women's committing crimes and misdemeanors to vindicate their equality with men and then claiming immunity on the ground that they are not men but women?"

The most valuable lesson taught to factional Republicans by the recent election was that a victory obtained by one faction over the other was barren; that the real victory was thrown away.

Combine the practical and beautiful in your Christmas giving



In this, the ideal Christmas gift, shoes or slippers, something that each day brings a recurring pleasant thought of the giver.



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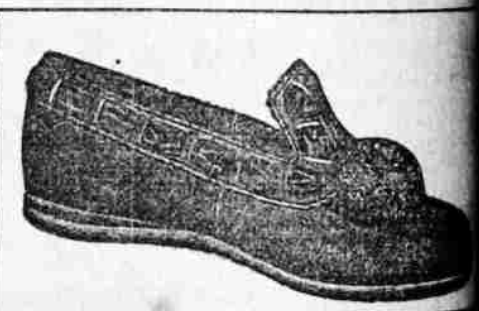
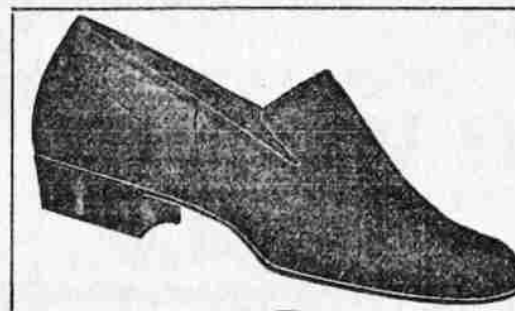
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KREEPAWA, the ideal slipper, made in men's, women's and boys' sizes. A heavy tufted, downy, fleece lined sole, with Everwear hide sole, uppers plain or trimmed. women's and boys' the pr. **\$1.25 and \$1.45** Men's sorts, the pair. **\$1.75 and \$2.45**

WOMEN'S FLEECE LINED SHOES, in round toe shape with patent tip or wide plain toe, at, the pair—
\$1.45, \$1.95 and \$2.45



We offer the following combination values in **HOSIERY** Put up in Christmas Boxes. Can be exchanged after the holidays.

Women's all silk thread, four-inch garter top, silk lisle, double sole high spliced heel, a very superior quality, regular price \$1.00, this week in Christmas box, colors black and white only, three pair for **\$2.25**

LADIES' BOOT SILK HOSE, a very superior quality, this week, 3 pair in box **\$1.00**

MEN'S PURE SILK HOSE, lisle heels and toes, in Christmas box, our special price, in black and colors, three pairs for **\$1.00**

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